

Miller. Senator Miller has pointed out, right now we have a tremendous surplus of water, and now is an appropriate time, of course, to discuss and speak about the advisability and, I think, the necessity, of regulating and the controlling, and managing that very important resource. I know that there are those who have a very proprietary attitude toward water, and justifiably so. I lived through the dry thirties, I lived through the dry fifties, I farmed in those areas, and I know how important it is to have an adequate supply of water. Even more important, I think, is an adequate supply of healthy wholesome water. I also read Congressman Bereuter's remarks in the paper Monday afternoon, and I have to concur with him. In fact, he had two separate subjects in that article and I would concur with him on both of them, unfortunately so. I think it is a disgrace, ladies and gentlemen, and I have to assume more responsibility for that and for showing the lack of leadership than any of you in here because it has been, perhaps, more my responsibility and I have been here longer than any of you, with the exception of Senator Warner. I cannot allow this discussion period to go by without emphasizing once again that if we do not place resources in those funds, we are not doing anyone a service. We are just lying to the public. When I sat down and discussed the bill 1106 four years ago with the appropriate individuals, I was given reason to believe that we would have executive support and legislative support and support from the Omaha business community, ladies and gentlemen, for a \$20 million development fund. Now we are down to 150,000, 150,000. That is like giving Senator Vard Johnson \$150,000 for his Omaha race track. That wouldn't even plow the track up and get it ready for the first race, and Senator Johnson wisely understands that. Because the development, protection, and enhancement of natural resources is an intangible item, just as is education, it is difficult to appropriate funds for it because you can't see the visible results within the length of our terms, for the most part. If you build a building, if you rejuvenate the race track, if you give somebody a tax break, that is visible, you can see it. But what we do here in water development is not going to be evident for years, and years, and years to come. But we will be the ones who will bear the brunt of the responsibility, ladies and gentlemen, if we do not take appropriate action at the present time. I would have preferred LB 151. I believe we have waited far too long. I believe we should move more aggressively but I recognize that this is an area that is emotional. It is highly charged with feeling on both sides of the issue, and, very frankly, when I first proposed the idea several years ago, it was viewed with